

From: Giles Constant
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 7:10am
Subject: A small comment about Microsoft

Dear sir/madam,

It is impossible to buy a laptop computer in the UK without giving money to Microsoft. Really - I've tried. Even if I intend to use Linux on the machine, due to the OEM licensing restrictions (which the DOJ settlement has failed to effectively address), licensees are not allowed to provide me with the hardware without Windows. The EULA has a clause which says if you do not use the software, you can take it back to the vendor for a refund, but unfortunately, this is only applicable for the price of the entire laptop.

This is (in my opinion) the most definitive example of the term "monopoly" I can possibly imagine. Although I speak from the UK, where the problem is likely to